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Inside Wallops

Wallops Hosts Visit from Ogdensburg Students -- Experiment was on Space Shuttle Columbia

*by Susan Sparacino, GSFC Deputy Project Manager
Resources, Hubble Space Telescope Operations Project*

"On Friday, March 14, Wallops welcomed a group of 7th and 8th-grade students from Ogdensburg (New Jersey) Public School for a full-day tour.....

The tour was outstanding. What an impressive facility! There were many who took the time to meet with the students, presenting interesting material and answering all questions. Without exception, presenter's exhibited enthusiasm for their work, delivering interesting information about their science missions, the equipment and methods they use and the impact of their work on scientific knowledge and the world at large.



Ogdensburg students prepare to launch a weather balloon.

Photo by Berit Bland.

We would like to convey our appreciation to all members of the Wallops team who contributed to a very memorable experience for the students and their families.

We know these individuals played important roles:

Berit Bland, John Hickman, Debbie Stanley, Ben Robbins, Doug Young, Jim Yungle, Murad Gozali, David Wilcox, Charlie Lipsett and Glen Maxfield.

Our charming hostess and tour guide, Berit Bland, deserves special recognition. She oversaw arrangements, coordinated a number of presentations, interacted with the students and family members and made it all look easy. Her presentations were filled to the brim with fun information that introduced the audience to Wallops, its history and environment. She conveyed much science information – for example, drawing from both mythology and up-to-date

science discoveries from the Wallops sounding rockets to explain the aurora borealis. Throughout the day, we discussed the effect of differing atmospheric pressures in higher altitudes and in space and the implications for space travel. The students and their parents heard interesting science lessons all day, and everyone's education was enhanced.

This tour had special meaning because it marked the completion of over a year's activities leading to the launch of the "Ogdensburg Glowing Rocket Experiment. Students had gathered rockets from Sterling Hill Mine near Ogdensburg and carefully measured fluorescence. Space Shuttle Columbia carried the rocks outside the Earth's atmosphere to study whether exposing the minerals to the rigors of space would alter their fluorescence in any way.

Although the experiment could not be completed, the students were glad to meet some of the people at Wallops Flight Facility who had helped process their Space Experiment Module for the Columbia mission.

It was an extraordinary day. The tour was a wonderful opportunity to see the exciting work that goes on at Wallops and to meet some of the people there. They make us very proud to be a part of NASA, once again.

Wallops Shorts.....

In the News

Sun-News (Las Cruces, N.M.)

"Balloons Work in Near-Space at a Fraction of Rockets' Cost"

El Paso Times

"Balloon Opportunities – NMSU Gets NASA Contract for Lab"

Anchorage Daily News

"Researchers Fire Four More Rockets To Learn More About Aurora Borealis"

Anchorage Daily News

"Geophysical Institute Finds Errant Rocket"

Anchorage Daily News

"Potentially Hazardous Chemical May be Aboard"

News-Miner (Fairbanks, Alaska)

"Geophysical Institute Finds Errant Rocket"

Eastern Shore News

"Liftoff Day at Wallops – NASA Visitor Center Provides Designated Days for Model Rocket Launches"

Eastern Shore News

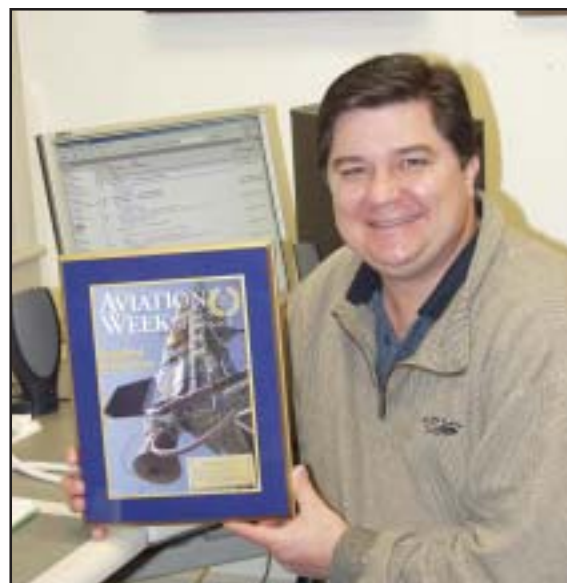
"Navy Testing to Close Ocean Area"

On The Road

Jeff Reddish, NASA Range and Mission Management Office, and Randy Carrier, Orbital Science Corporation, took part in a Career Day event at the Fruitland Intermediate School on April 10.

John Campbell, NASA Suborbital and Special Orbital Projects; Fred Lewis, Northrop Grumman and Randy Carrier, Orbital Science Corporation, served as judges for the Eastern Shore Science Fair held at the Eastern Shore Community College on April 12.

Wallops Photographer Receives Recognition



Jim Mason-Foley, GHG, (left) recently received a plaque from *Aviation Week & Space Technology* magazine for photographing the cover for the Feb. 3, 2003 issue.

The photograph is a pre-launch shot of the Hybrid rocket which was launched from Wallops Island Dec. 18, 2002.

Photo by Lee Wingfield

**Easter Egg Hunt a Success
Thanks for the Support!**

*By Alex Coleman, Chairman
Morale Activities Committee*

The annual Children’s Easter Egg Hunt was held this past weekend, Saturday, April 12. I heard nothing but good reviews on how the event turned out and believe folks really enjoyed themselves, even though we held it inside. Those participating told me they felt it was probably one of the best yet.



Photo by Alex Coleman.
The Easter Bunny (Josh Brown) made a surprise visit.

The Wallops Exchange and Morale Association, Morale Activities Committee (WEMA/MAC) teamed with our neighbors, the U.S. Navy Family Support Group, and used their facilities at the Cropper Center rather than holding the event on the Main Base and dealing with security issues in gaining access for all the different families.

The Easter Egg Hunt was a success because of the efforts of several people that deserve special thanks. They are Chief Brown and his family and the Wallops Island Naval Women’s Auxiliary. A big, big special thanks goes to Donna Gant and her family. Thanks also to all the children and Moms and Dads who participated in this year’s Easter Egg Hunt.

Security Tip

This security tip is courtesy of Matt Beagen with Electronic Alarm Systems Inc., Warwick, R.I. as reported in Security E-news. Published with permission:

“Please be aware of the following scam: Thieves are putting thin, clear, rigid, plastic ‘sleeves’ into ATM card slots. When you insert your card, the machine cannot read the magnetic strip. As a result, the machine keeps prompting you to re-enter your PIN while someone behind you watches.

Eventually, you give up, thinking the machine has captured your card, and walk away. The thieves then remove the plastic sleeve — complete with your card — and empty your account.

To avoid this, run your finger along the card slot before inserting your card. You will be able to feel the tiny prongs on the sleeve needed to remove it from the slot.”

Soil Excavation

The Wallops Environmental Office will be excavating soil contaminated primarily with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) at the N-222 scrap yard. The N-222 scrap yard also has a few small areas that are contaminated with low-level radioactive material (radium-226 and thorium-232) resulting from the storage of equipment with self-luminous dials. These areas also will be excavated.

A vacuum extraction technology will be used in the PCB contaminated portion of the woodlands outside the scrap yard in an effort to save the mature trees in the woodlands.

When the scrap yard remediation is completed it will be backfilled with soil and resurfaced with recycled concrete so it can be used as a storage area. Remediation and site restoration is scheduled to be complete by the end of May.

For further information call the Environmental Restoration Program Manager, Sue Fields, on x1327.



**Core Financial Classes
Have Begun, Web-based
Training Also Available**

All GSFC Core Financial End Users are required to complete training in preparation for the Core Financial Go-Live targeted for June 23, 2003.

Instructor-led training (ILT) is being offered from April 1 to May 30, 2003. Web-based training is available now and can be accessed at <http://cfwebcourse.ifmp.nasa.gov/>



Shorebird Tickets
Now available in the Wallops Exchange Store Building E-2

\$4.00 each — \$2.00 off regular admission.

For Sale

Child’s Dirt Bike. Jr 50 Suzuki. Asking \$700 Call Frank on (757) 665-4365. Leave a message.

Centennial of Flight Milestone
91 years ago on April 16, 1912, Harriet Quimby, the first woman to be issued a U.S. pilot’s license, flies the English Channel.

**Hopefully Winter Is Over —
Welcome Spring**

by Bob Steiner, Meteorologist

March 2003 brought a pleasant end to winter, hopefully. We experienced 19 days and 19 nights with above normal temperatures. These warm days and nights helped bring the average temperature for the month to 46.5 degrees, 1.6 degrees above the average of 44.9 degrees. The warmest temperature of 68 degrees occurred three times, on the March 9, 22nd and 29th. The low temperature for the month was the 21 degrees recorded on the 4th. No record temperatures were set or tied during the month.

The wet trend of the previous few months continued into March. With 4.92 inches of liquid precipitation being measured we were 0.95 inches above normal for the month. In a 24-hour period, from the evening of the 29th to the evening of the 30th a little over two inches fell. Measurable rain fell on 12 days, two more than the average of 10. There were four days when greater than one-half inch of rain was measured. On one of those days, the 29th, 1.39 inches was recorded. No measurable snow fell during March, but a trace of snow was observed on three days during the month.

Winds of 25 knots or greater, were observed on 14 days during the month.

Average daytime highs in May begin in the mid 60’s and climb into the mid to upper 70’s by the end of the month. Overnight lows are much milder, beginning near 50 and increasing to almost 60 degrees. The all-time high for May is the 97 degrees recorded on May 31, 1991. The coolest temperature recorded for May was the 34 degrees reached on May 8, 1974.

Rain can be expected to fall on nine days during the month giving us an average of 3.18 inches. May brings an increase in thunderstorm activity, which means strong gusty winds and large hail are a good possibility.

The most dangerous aspect of thunderstorms is LIGHTNING. Lightning can ignite fires, knock down trees and even cause death if one is unfortunate enough to be struck by it.

Tornados, although rare on the Eastern Shore, are not impossible. Folks are urged to be aware of changing conditions, such as darkening skies, a sudden gust of cool air or we observe turning wispy undersides to the darkening clouds.

Inside Wallops is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of *Inside Wallops* also may be found on the NASA Wallops Flight Facility homepage: www.wff.nasa.gov

Editor

Betty Flowers